Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga.

February 26, 2004

Sgt. Maj. of Guard's 48th Infantry from MCLB

COLIE YOUNG LOGCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Military service for James Nelson began in 1971 with the U.S. Army. After only three short years, the sergeant called it quits. Little did the Sylvester, Ga., native know, he would hold the top enlisted post as the Georgia Army National Guard's 48th Infantry Brigade sergeant major,

33 years later.
"I never thought the military would be a career, especially after my first three years in the Army," Nelson said.

"When I initially got out, a friend of mine began talking to me about rejoining with the National Guard. At first I wasn't interested, but he kept talking and after awhile I agreed. This same friend is long-retired, and I'm still in," he said with a chuckle.

In 1974 Nelson landed a civil service position at Marine Corps mechanic helper. But it was 1977 when he re-entered the military as a National Guardsman. Nelson said he changed his military career field from armor to infantry to be "closer to home."

and his journey began.

Always seeking to advance,
Nelson climbed the civil service ladder, while at the same time advanced as a Guardsman. Nelson's attributes his successful Guard career to the support he received from his civilian career

at the Marine Base.

"I have had great success with
the Guard largely because of the
support I've received from
MCLB," Nelson pointed out. "The base has always been sup-portive of my reserve responsibil-ities as well as other guard and reservists who work aboard the base."

"The support allows me to explore all the meaningful oppor-

tunities available with the Guard," he added.

Although his promotion to his Attnough his promotion to his current rank in 1996 was certainly memorable, Nelson reports the "most significant event" in his National Guard career was when

he deployed to Bosnia in 2001.
"Bosnia was one of the most meaningful missions in my Guard career up to that point," Nelson said. "We participated with NATO on a peacekeeping mis-sion, and we really helped that country and its people rebuild a safe and secure environment from something that was war-torn. That meant a lot to me personally." With a rebuilding mission in

Iraq possibly on the horizon, Nelson said he is waiting, but hadn't received word if he will be a part of that.
"I haven't received any formal

orders at this point and time," he

For now, Nelson said he's

focusing on the task at hand his have two primary responsibilities new post, which is headquartered in Macon.

"Being the Command sergeant major for the 48th places me in command of more than 4,000 soldiers," Nelson said. "As such, I'll of soldiers and a larger role to

"First, I will serve as the eves and ears of the brigade comman

der. But more importantly," he continued, "I believe, I'll have a broader influence on the training

them and the welfare of their fam-

With a little less than four seems Nelson is in just the right position - helping others.



James Nelson, business developer, LogCom Marketing, now holds the top enlisted post as Sgt. Maj. in Georgia's Army National Guard's 48th Infantry Brigade.

OSC scholarships now available

EMBLEM STAFF

Each year the Officers' Spouses Club here offers a scholarship to a military or civilian family member in e surrounding community. To raise money to offer this scholarship, OSC hosts many fundraisers through-

out the year.

The eligibility requirements for students to receive the scholarship are:

Applicants must be a family member, child or spouse of one of the following:

Any active duty service member stationed here, any retried service member residing in the area, any deceased military service member (applicant must still reside in the area), any military service member on active duty serving an unaccompanied tour whose last duty station was Marine Corps Logistics Command Albany (family member must reside in the area), or any civilian employee who is currently a member of the OSC here.

Applicants must be high school graduates or candidates for graduation from high se

• Applicants must college or university who will graduate from high school in the current school year must be in the upper 10 percent of the senior class or have an overall 3.0 grade point average based on the 4.0 system and have applied to or have been accepted at an accredited college or university.
• Applicants to a vocational or technical school who will graduate from high school in the current school year must have a 2.8 GPA based on the 4.0 system and/or have a 3.2 GPA in a selected vocational/technical

program and have applied to or have been accepted to a vocational or technical school.

"Flame Dragons" author pays MCLB Albany a visit

LANCE CPL. KEVIN J RIDLON

Marines and civilian workers got a chance to meet and talk to Jerry Ravino, author of the book "Flame Dragons," and Robert Rusconi, Honor Guard, Detach-ment 708, Spring Hills, Fla., when they came to the Marine Corns Logistics Base to partake in a ceremony and book signing opportunity.

The ceremony, held in the

Carson Conference Room, Bldg. 3500, was held to honor George Fish, a crewmember in the Flame Tank Platoon. George Fish passed away before the book was finished, but was still a big part in

the book.
"My husband started to talk to Jerry about information in the book up until he passed away," said Jean Fish, wife of George Fish and an Albany, Ga resident. "I took over after he passed away and gave him all the information

Accepting the honor on George's behalf was his wife Jean who also accepted the many gifts from Ravino. Among them she received a signed copy of the book, a model of her husband's tank during the war and a medallion with her husband's boot

camp picture.

"This was such a surprise for me," Jean said. "About three days before the ceremony I was

called and asked to come to a ceremony for a friend of mine. I had no idea this was going to hap-According to Rusconi, the pri-

mary mission for coming to the base was to honor George Fish and his wife. Rusconi's job was to get

everything ready for the ceremo-ny and the trip to MCLB.

"I took care of everything on the Florida side of things," Rusconi said.

After the ceremony, Ravino and Rusconi set up a display at the MCCS Exchange, where Ravino signed books and talked to people about his stories.
"Getting into writing this book

was a story in itself," Ravino said. "There was a World War II colonel, Edward T. Imparato, that I met by chance when I was updating my resume. Reading my resume the colonel noticed that I was part of the "Flame Dragons" and he asked me to come to his house to talk to him

Imparato is the author of many published military books, includ-ing "Into Darkness," "Mac-Arthur: Melbourne to Tokyo" and other World War II books. "He was very interested in

many things about the flame tanks," Ravino said. "He was interested in how they worked, how they sounded and if they were in battle. He then asked me if I could write as well as I told the stories about the tanks. I was worried about writing at first, but began to write and soon the book was born.'

"It was Col. Imparato who was the catalyst that started me on the journey not to let the flame tanks go unnoticed," Ravino added.

Jean added that that the "Flame Dragons" need to be rec-ognized because being a small platoon there were very few of

It was an elite organization According to Ravino, most of the people who were found to tell their stories of the flame tanks and donate pictures were found on the internet.

The other author of the book, Jack Carty was one of those people who was found through the internet.

"He was a flame tank commander that was in the war a year before I was," Ravino said. "We got together and collaborated and put the story together. He was very helpful because of his jour-nalism experience."

Unclassified information from

the Navy Marine Corps Historical Center was also used to back up the information. Ravino found many new skills

that he has really never had to use before in his life.

"You got to be a good interviewer, a good digger," Ravino
See Dragon — Page 5

Black History Month celebrated at Albany



(Above) Dr. Joshua Murfee, director, Center of African American Males and national chair, Mentoring for 100 Black Men of America Program speaks at MCLB Albany Logistics Command's Black History Month program. (B Logistics Command's Black History Month program enjoy lunch.



Inside...

Former Marines revisit MCLB Albany. ICE reaches four month review process.

Semper Fit — the ulti mate fitness club. Pg. 5

A Few Good Words



'Friendly fire'

LCDR ROGER RICHARDS COMMAND CHAPLAII

Several years ago, I was given a list of rules for armed combat Most of them were intended to be humorous, while still reminding us show of them were intended to be infinitely as me shift relimining to of common sense realities. One of them pointed out that tracers work both ways. Another cautioned the reader to try to look unimportant when there are snipers in the area. One stated that "friendly fire" isn't." In other words, just because it was inflicted by our own side

Normally, the way friendly fire occurs is, during the confusion of battle, someone is confused with the enemy. The person firing the round is confused by the "fog of war," and in the heat of the moment inflicts injury because he can't tell who the enemy is or has a reason-

able belief that the other person is hostile.

I have seen many casualties of "friendly fire" in relationships over the years. This usually happens during an argument between family members. The two parties are engaged in a disagreement and it becomes a very emotionally charged issue. The more it is discussed, the angrier the individuals become. Unfortunately, when we become very angry, it clouds our judgment and causes us to say and do things that we would not do if we thought about it first.

The problem with "friendly fire" of this sort is that it is normally not a physical injury so much as an emotional casualty. It has been my experience that hurt of this kind usually takes a great deal of time to heal. It is often left untreated and festers for many eyers. The problem is that the longer it is left untreated, the more difficult it is to

I have known of people who have completely severed ties with amily members over words that were spoken. When someone we family members over words that were spoken. When someone we love or desire approval from says something that is unkind to us, it usually causes a deeper level of pain and emotional injury than if the same words were spoken by a total stranger or someone which whom we have no emotional investment. So, in reality, friendly fire wounds

The good news is that friendly fire doesn't necessarily have to be fatal to a relationship. Sometimes it will be because the parties are so deeply hurt that they are not willing to try to reconcile, but normally, we feel the pain because there has been a rift in the relationship that we have a desire to heal. If both parties will acknowledge the injury they have caused to the other and ask forgiveness, the healing can

Sometimes, just like with a physical injury, it requires profession-al help to repair the wound, but many times we can resolve it our restore the relationship with the other person. But the best thing to do would be, just like in combat, to reduce the number of casualties to friendly fire. The best way to do this would be to back off during the heat of an argument and give serious thought about what harm could be caused by our words. I guess it boils down to what my round be caused by one works. I guess it obust down to what my mother taught me—think before you speak. That way, maybe I can avoid saying something that would be hurtful to another person. Let's all avoid friendly fire injuries.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in church on Sunday.

COMMAND RELIGIOUS PROGRAM WORSHIP INFORMATION

.. .10:30 a.m. 639-5282. For emergencies, call the Officer of the Day at 639-5206.

Crossroads Restaurant Menu

Green beans

Rolls & butter

Soup of the Day Express Lunch Sliced ham Hawa

Sweet potatoes Baked beans Corn on the cob

Rolls & butter

Wednesday Soup of the Day

Express Lunch

Sesame chicken wings

Macaroni & cheese

Salad bar

Fried rice Zucchini saute

Fried cabbage

Rolls & butt

Barbequed spare ribs

Oven roasted potatoes

Tuesday

Today Soup of the Day Express Lunch Beef w/broccoli Teriyaki chicken Yakisoba

Steamed rice Vegetable fried rice Oriental vegetable stir fry Salad bar

Friday Soup of the Day Express Lunch Baked & fried trout Herb baked chicken Macaroni & cheese Peas & carrots

Cheese grits Rolls & butter

Monday Soup of the Day Express Lunch Fried chicken Chili Mac

Mashed potatoes

Lunch Buffet & Lunch Buffet Takeout - \$5.95 Soup & Salad and Soup & Salad Takeout — \$3.95 (add dessert \$4.95) Express Lunch — \$3.95

Hours of Operation - Mon. - Fri., 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Motorcycle safety for 'wannabes'

Spring is in the air and thoughts of riding a motorcy-

cle get the "old" testosterone flowing.

However, before you start riding there are some things that you need to know to keep you need to know to keep you in the good graces of the Marine Corps.

First of all, along with your

proof of insurance and registration form, any person oper-ating a motorcycle on this installation must have in his possession, a valid state drivers license with motorcycle

endorsement and their Motor-cycle Safety Course Card.

To receive a Motorcycle Safety Course Card individuals must have completed one of two Motorcycle Safety Courses. One of the courses is for experienced riders. The course lasts one day. The sec-ond course is geared for the

on or off base.

If you have never attended one of the courses you can sign up through the Risk Management Office. We have courses scheduled

in March and running through lovember.
These courses are offered

free to any military or DoD civilians or their dependents as long as they ride their own motorcycle.

There is a fee of \$250.00 if

you use state provided bikes.

Also, you must have the proper personal protective equipment on at all times.

Proper PPE consists of - a correctly worn approved helmet; goggles or full-face shield; unconcealed high-visibility vest with reflective stripes; long sleeved shirt, long pants and full-fingered gloves or

mittens; ankle high hard-soled shoes or boots. Marines must comply with these PPE ements while riding on

For more information on class dates, registration forms, PPE requirements or general

vehicle safety, visit our Web site at https://intra net.mat com usmc mil/safety/default h by the Risk Management Office in Bldg. 3500, Room 301.



Mariachi music is played at 'Mexico night' at the Officers club by the Mariachi band, Garibaldi. Officers of MCLB and equivalent grade civilian enjoyed a Mexican style dinner in a Mexican place setting.

Leave donations requests for employee emergencies

Program may be used by employees to request to become annual leave recipients if they or a member of their family suffers a medical emergency. To donate annual leave submit an Ontical Form 630-A

Carl Simpson, an employee of Fleet Support Division, needs leave donations for surgery. Call Cheryl Honeck at 639-5835.

 Daniel A. Wentzell Jr., an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations for illness, Call Veronica Ferros at 639-

5379 for further details.

• Edgar Cole, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations for surgery. Call Brenda Brandt at 639-6308.

• Gerald Wells, an employee of the Supply Chain Management Center, needs leave donations for an illness. Call Georgia Olson at 639-6534

Beryl W. Brown, an employee
of Fleet Support Division, needs

The Annual Leave Transfer leave donations for recuperation from auto accident. Call Sherrie Kuck at 639-5881.
• Kimberly Vidal, an employee

of Logistics Operations, needs leave donations due to illness. Call Barbara Akers at 639-5565.

 Karel Giese, an employee of the Business Performance Office, needs leave donations for illness. Call Karen Phillips at 639-7161.

• Robert A. Dickerson, an employee of Maintenance Center

Albany, needs leave donations due to illness. Call Thomas Newton at to illness. Can.
639-6348.
• Tracy Jo Singletary, an

employee of SCMC, needs leave donations to care for family member. Call Zelda M. Collier at 639-

• Ruth J. Bailey, an employee of Installation and Logisticssion, needs leave donations for surgery. Call Diane McCall at 639-5652.

Dottie A. Tucker, an employ-

ee of SCMC, needs leave donations to care for family member. Call Jeanette Bell at 639-8213. • Jerome W. Vick, an employee

of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations for surgery.

Call Mack Prater at 639-5796.

• Kenneth E. Shiver, an employee of Maintenance Center

Albany, needs leave donations to care for family member. Call Jimmy Shiver at 639-5375.

• Frank Laster, an employee of Fleet Support Division, needs leave donations for recuperation. Call Sherry Kuck at 639-5881. • Sandra P. Ellerson, an

employee of the Resource Management Division, needs leave donations due to illness. Call Sandy Rickett at 639-7013. • Reid E. Merritt, an employee

of Maintenance Center Albany needs leave donations to care fo family member. Call Brenda Brandt at 639-6308.

Linda D. Scott, an employee

of SCMC, needs leave donations for recuperation. Contact Mary Beth Parsons at 639-8200.

 Cynthia A. Howard, an employee of Marine Corps Systems Command, needs leave donations for recuperation from surgery. Call Ron Howard at 639-7355.
• Glenda S. Lanier, an employ-

ee of Fleet Support Division, needs leave donations for care of family nember. Call Sherrie Kuck at 639-

 George R. Batchelder, an employee of Risk Management Branch, needs leave donations for care of family member. Call Merrill Dickinson at 639-5249.

Nancy H. Bitwinick, an employee of C-4, needs leave donations for recuperation from surgry. Call Valerie Byrd at 639-6661.

To become

To become a leave recipient, an employee must submit a copy of Optional Form 630. For more information on the program, call 639-5228.

Base Theater Schedule

FRIDAY - FEB. 27
7 p.m. -- Chasing Liberty, rated PG13 — Mandy Moore, Matthew Goode, Mark Harmon, Jeremy Piven, Annabella Sciorra

SATURDAY - FEB. 28

11 a.m. -- Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Rings 3:30 p.m. -- Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers 8 p.m. -- Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King rated PG13 -- Elijah Wood, Sean Astin, Ian McKellen, Viggo Mortenson, John Rys-Davies

WEDNESDAY - MAR. 3
7 p.m. -- The Butterfly Effect, rated R — Ashton Kutcher, Amy Smart, Elden Henson, Eric Stoltz, Ethan Suplee

Hot Dog\$.75	Large soda\$1.00
Sausage \$1.00	Small soda\$.75
Nachos \$1.00	Large popcorn \$1.50
Candy \$.50	Med. popcorn \$1.00
Slim Jims \$.75	Small popcorn \$.75

Community Briefs

Travel and Recreation Trade Show will be Mar. 11, 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Thomason Gym. Admission is free and there are great door prizes. For more information, call 639-

The MCLB Albany Pistol Team is looking for three more sergeants-or-below to represent the base at a pistol match at CLNC. Individuals should be first time shooters. For more information, call 639-6134.

 The Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference men's and women's championships will be held at the Albany Civic Center Mar. 3 - 6.

ITT's Sixth Annual The fun begins Mar. 1 with several activities. For more infor-mation, call 434-8700.

— The Albany Recreation

and Parks department is seeking proposals to provide a volunteer adult-run youth football and cheerleading program. Written proposals should be submitted by Mar. 8. Call 430-5222 for

details.

— The Albany Police
Department is providing a
"Citizens' Police Academy"

beginning Mar. 16.
This is a hands-on learning opportunity to acquaint Albany residents with the department. The classes are weekly at 7 p.m. Call 431-2146 to enroll.



The Emblem



nunity Relations Chief

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Marines return to Albany for stroll down memory lane

Story and photos by CPL. ISAAC PACHECO EMBLEM STAFF

Two men who forged a lifelong friendship while working as Combat Correspondents aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, Ga., during the Vietnam war reunited here Feb. 18 for an emotional walk

down memory lane.

Meeting together for only the second time in over 30 years Maj. James Ray (Ret.) and William "Mack" Rush took the opportunity to recount fond memories of their youth and the events that led up to

their chance meeting.

When Ray joined the Marine Corps in Feb. 1967, he never planned on becoming a writer. Ray, a St. Paul, Minnesota native, knew that as a fresh faced 21-year-old, the escalating Vietnam conflict

could draw him in at any time.

Like many guys his age, Ray
dreamt of being part of the action, a grunt on the front lines. Rather than take his chances with an uncertain draft, Ray decided to enlist, ensuring his spot in the Marine

Thousands of miles away another man was already living that dream, although to some it seemed like a nightmare. Even as Ray was stepping onto the yellow footprints in San Diego, someone else, whose life would soon intertwine with his, was busy moving 106-millimeter anti-tank guns through the dense jungles of Vietnam. Rush, "Mack" to his bud-

dies, was lured by the financial promise of the newly created G.I. Bill and joined the Corps July 13, 1966. Rush, a Tallahassee, Fla. native, had grown up with heat and humidity but nothing that compared to the sweltering Vietnam summers in his poorly ventilated hooch. peaceful where he could pur-sue his love of writing and escape the desolation and carnage of the war around him.

In the end, fate forever changed the lives of Rush and Ray, bringing them together from different corners of the

world in a way they would never have expected.

Ray never made it to Infantry School after Boot Camp. After scoring excep-tionally high on military gram-mar and typing tests, Ray's superiors sent him to the Defense Information School at Fort Benjamin Harris, Indianapolis, IN.

Had Ray not been so fast on

nad Ray Into been so fast oin a typewriter, his story, and those of many other Marines, may never have been told.
"I really wanted to go infantry," said Ray. "I think the only reason they sent me to

DINFOS is because I could type fast. The journalism school was really tough for

In the summer of 1967, Ray was stationed aboard MCLB Albany, in what is now known as the Public Affairs Office. It was here, that he and Lance Cpl. Rush first met. Rush had returned from Vietnam in Jan. 1968, and was also stationed in

"I was glad to come home but it was an emotional time," Rush recounts. "You never find friends better than the one's you make in a combat situation. It was hard to leave all

my buddies there."

Due to the lack of infantry billets aboard the base, Rush was slated to work for the mil-itary police. Rush, however, had different plans in mind. While checking in, Rush read a note on the Battalion

Sgt. Major's door that gave him all the motivation he need-ed and changed his life forever.

knew they were going to send me to work with the Military Police," explained Rush. Police," explained Rush. "When I walked by the Sgt. Major's door I saw a note ask-ing for Marines who were interested in, or had experience with journalism. Writing has always been natural for me so I jumped at the chance." Rush underwent interviews

and typing tests and proved to be such a proficient writer that his superiors sent him directly to the Public Affairs office instead of a formal military journalism school. Rush embraced iournalism quickly landed the job of feature writer and reporter in his shop.



Rediscovering gems from their past, Ray and Rush reminisce about their days as young Marines while reading archived copies of their articles.



Rush (far left) and Ray (far right) were responsible for the lion-share of media related activity aboard MCLB

worked as the sports editor and the two men developed a friendship that has carried on

worked diligently to cover "any story they could get their hands on" around the base.

"I would always go out and cover extra-curricular activi-ties that Marines participated ties that Marines participated in; like the bowling alley and library," Rush said. "It's pretty similar to what you guys do today except there were a lot more Marines here."

In 1969 the two men parted ways when Ray was promoted to Sergeant and sent to Dong Ha, Vietnam as a media liai-son. Ray spent a 6 month tour in Vietnam and returned home to continue his education at the

After earning a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education in 1972 Ray again took up the challenge of military life by attending Officer Candidacy School in Quantico, VA. Ray completed the course and was commissioned a 2nd Lieuten-ant in the Marine Corps.

Ray went on to serve 3 years as a Communications Officer in 29 Palms Ca before return ing to Minnesota and joining the Army Reserves in 1975.

Ray retired as an Army Major in 1995 and when he's not on the golf course he spends his days substitute teaching at schools near his home in Mahtomedi, MN.

Rush was eventually promoted to sergeant and served out his remaining 1-year conout in Albany. He later went on to receive his Bachelor degree in Business Adminis-tration and a Masters degree in Interior Design from Florida A&M. In the years since he worked as a Combat Correspondent aboard Albany, Rush worked as a professor teaching architecture at Florida A&M and doing interior design work around his hometown. Rush

currently works as a special projects coordinator for the city of Tallahassee, Fla.

When Ray and Rush met together for the first time in Florida 3 years ago neither man had seen the other since Ray's deployment to Vietnam. There they tentatively discussed the possibility of a reunion on their old stomping grounds.

grounds.

"I had always wanted to come back and visit the base," Ray said. "I thought it would be great if Mack and I could get back together and see what had become of the base we served on together. I called him and asked if he'd like to meet. He said was and here we are." He said ves, and here we are,

As they toured the base for the first time in 35 years, both men happily recounted the days of squad bay life and 400point physical fitness tests. Both men agreed that although much has changed in the Corps since their days as enlisted Marines, a lot of things on base are still the same

"We lived in the exact same barracks you live in now except they were open squad bays, Ray said. "Every time someone came in late they would wake you up."

When we did our physical fitness tests, we had to go through an obstacle course and

climb ropes," Rush also added Although the technology has changed significantly since the days of manual typewriters and cut and paste layout, the men still found common threads that link today's publications

"It's definitely more advanced now," said Ray. "Now you have digital cameras and computers to help you get the job done. We had film and typewriters. If we made a mis-take it took a lot more work to fix it.

Some things never change though. We wrote about a lot of the things you're still writ-ing about today and we still ve the same motto. The first to go, the last to know."

At the end of the tour, laughs

and anecdotes were exchanged as both men spent time rifling through archived copies of

Like a kid opening presents on Christmas morning, each man's face lit up as he re-discovered a gem from a past he helped create.

The Emblem, which Rush

and Ray gave their creative talents to produce, proudly bears the same name to this day, and with it, the legacy of the men and women who carried the torch of Marine Corps history into the 21st century.



Past meets present as Ray and Rush sit inside one of the Marine Corps' newest and largest trucks, the MK23 7-ton tactical vehicle.



Pfc. Ray reviews one of his sports stories with his editor in the Fall of 1967.



Before ...



and after ...





Shortly before deploying to Vietnam in 1969, Ray received his sergeant stripes outside of what is now the company 1st Sergeant's office.

Packaging Lab tests bags to improve rifle storage



dward Pender inspects an M16 A-1 service rifle to see if a storage bag protected it from corrosion during a salt fog test in the Packaging, Storage and Containerization Center Laboratory. PSCC Laboratory personnel tested six supplier-submitted M-16 rifle storage bag designs.

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pa. — The M-16 series of combat rifles has a remarkable record of service

and longevity, but it can be ruined if not stored properly.
The U.S. Army Materiel Command Logistics Support
Activity Packaging, Storage and Containerization Center Laboratory is helping to ensure proper storage of the

Laboratory personnel recently subjected commercially designed storage bags to a series of rugged tests to see if they could protect rifles as well as the current bags, while making it easier to check rifles for auditing pur-poses. PSCC is the Defense Department's lead activity responsible for testing and evaluating barriers and

Charlotte Lent, an industrial engineer in the PSCC Laboratory, said the rifles are currently stored by wrap-ping them in volatile corrosion inhibiting paper, then heat-sealing them in foil bags. That system protects the rifle from corrosion.

"The system is very labor intensive." she said. "Whenever a rifle is checked, it has to be removed from the bag, then repackaged, every time. The VCI paper has a strong odor and can sometimes, depending on the chemicals used, be a hazardous substance.

The U.S. Marine Corps wanted a more user-friendly

bag.
"Their idea was a system with a window so the serial number can be checked easily without removing the rifle from the bag," Lent said. "Two suppliers asked the Marines to consider their designs." When PSCC received the request from the Marine Corps to evaluate the two commercial designs, they surveyed the market for other ideas.

"Six commercial designs were originally submitted for testing and evaluation against the current package,"

Lent said. "We decided to include
actual M-16s inside the test bags
due to the unique combination of

materials. M-16s have aluminum

chrome, steel, plastic and residues from firing. Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas provided the rifles because the Air Force is interested in this too."

Lent and distribution facilities specialist Mike Burns conducted a number of tests, from ease of use, to rough handling and environmental tests. Gunnery Sgt. Edward Pender, Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, Ga., assisted by providing the user's perspective of the bags,

as well as an expert inspection of the rifles.
"The environmental tests would show how the materials behaved in salt air, cold, heat and temperature shock," Lent said. "If the bags worked, there would be no rifle corrosion, no condensation inside, no softening of plastic parts, and no failures of seams and closures

such as zippers."

After the first series of tests, none of the six designs had clearly demonstrated performance equal to or better

had cearly denoissated periorinance equal to to design than the current military specification design. "Three of the six bags offered corrosion prevention equal to that of the current system," Lent said. "The other three were unacceptable. All six needed some changes to become fully acceptable, such as wider heat seals, more durable material and more reliable closures

The suppliers were invited to submit redesigned systems for further testing.

Four of the suppliers offered a redesigned storage system or bag. The second round of testing was more severe, because the environmental tests were conducted sequen-tially. The test sequence started with rough handling, drop and vibration tests, followed by 24-hours at minus 40 F, then 24-hours of high heat, then 10 days of high humidity cycles.

"The four bags came through the testing in good shape," Lent said. "The rifles in two of the bags showed an unacceptable level of rust, while the other two had no signs of rust at all.

The test results are being provided to the Marine Corps, which will make a final determination for use.

reaches four month review mark

MCLB Albany's Interactive Customer Evaluation system has been with us now for more than four months. This system has allowed the customers of our base services to go to an easy to use interactive Web site, and provide their comments (both good and bad), so that we "ser vice providers" can listen and respond to the needs we hear voiced.

In the last four months, we have received more than 440 responses. These comments span a range of services, from the bigger areas like Marine Corps Community Services, Installation & Logistics, and Resource Management right down to our smallest department (by the way, that's the Business Perfor-mance Office). MCCS has received the most comments, nearly three times more than the next closest department, and they have acted on every one of these to help meet the needs of their patrons.

So, I expect you may be wonder-ing what the trends might be show-ing. What was the most controver-sial issue? What has been the biggest change brought about by the comments received? How do you know if your voice was heard??? First of all, the trends show

improvement in the overall rating of the base. This rating is a mathematical percentage score that is calculated by the system, based upon the responses received. This system is maintained by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and we here on the base cannot change or modify our ratings. It is a truth-teller, whether that truth is good or bad, and it is a system that opens up a new line of communication directly to the front door service manager. What that system is telling us right now is that the base has improved

some since we started last October.

In the four months we have reports for, the base has moved from 85%, to an 88% rating. The people who run this at OSD tell us the 85% and above is good, but remember that the point of this system is not really about the "score", it is about



hearing our customers' needs and responding.

What was the most controversial issue reported through ICE? As you might expect, it was the closing of the golf course on base. Some cus-tomers felt very strongly about this, and the comments that came in through ICE were both positive and negative. The discussions that sur-faced over the golf course helped MCCS in their negotiations with the Albany city golf courses. Because of the dialogue and the knowledge gained at least partially through the contacts initiated through ICE, MCCS managers were able to ask for and get partnership agreements with five local golf courses that will continue to provide many opportunities for our base community to enjoy the game of golf. So far, this is the biggest change that has come about because of ideas developed through ICE contacts.

This brings me to the final lesson learned so far. This is the question of how you will be able to know if you voice is heard? Well, I hope you understand by now that a front door service manager will hear your voice every time you submit an ICE comment. This will be read, it will be talked about, and if it is warranted, there will be action taken on it

What we have also seen so far is that the best way to know if you are heard, and the best way for you to actively participate in making your base the best base in the Marine Corps, is for you to identify that you want a response back. This will happen within five working days!

How you communicate your complaints, good ideas, pats on the back, or concerns, are your personal decision. One way is to tell your friends and co-workers.

This method has been shown to make change happen about 0.0% of the time. Another way is to use ICE to tell the right people; the people who can make change happen. It's up to you!

Customers can visit ICE at

http://ice.disa.mil to share com-

The system can also be accessed from the MCLB Albany homepage at www.ala.usmc.mil by clicking on the ICE logo. If further assistance is needed, the ICE Site Manager, Ms. Dana Whiddon, can be reached Monday through Friday during nor mal business hours on (229) 639-7163 or at smblogcomice@log com.usmc.mil.

Semper Fit offers the ultimate fitness club for Marines

Camp Lejeune announces the PT Coordinators' 2004 Marines in their units, remedial groups, and for individuals.

Course Mar. 22 – 26. All classes are being held at Camp Lejeune, N.C. The course is designed for Marines and American College of Sports Medicine but this does not Sailors who are in charge of their unit's physical training

reflect endorsement of the sponsoring organization, certifi-

Salors who are in charge of their unit's physical training program and/or BCP program.

This 4-day course is a combination of lectures with topics on exercise and fitness, as well as practical sessions each day.

By the end of the course, coordinators will be able to design a safe and effective physical training program for Management, Injury Prevention, Review & Foot Typing,

Developing Effective Running Programs, Track Workout, Motivation & Performance, Periodization, Sports Nutrition, Safety & Weight Training, MCPFTBCP, Group Fitness Assessment, Deployment Circuit, and a case study to devel-

Assessment, Depoyment circuit, and a class study to develop a training plan for their unit or remedial group.

Unit PT/BCP Leaders are required to bring PFT/PFA scores for those under their charge and will be asked to provide the scores from their first test following the course. To sign up, contact: Tanya Kelly, Personal Training/Workshops Coordinator, 910-451-0824.



Dragon — From Page 1
said. "You never know who you the base for all of their help in making this ceremony a very someone who has a real good beautiful one," Rusconi said. "I

"I want to give a big thanks

someone who has a real good statistic or a historical story."

The book and an original tank from the war are going to be put in the new multi-million dollar museum that is being built at Quantico and will be opening in 2005.

"There is currently a search being conducted to find one of these tenke." Paying a will be provided to the conduction of the provided that the pr

being conducted to Iriu one or these tanks," Ravino said.

The ceremony and booksigning event attracted many military and civilian workers book at Web site, www.flame

Assonance com.



Jerry Ravino, co-author of "Flame Dragons," along with Jean Fish, wife of George Fish, inspects the medallion that he just gave her.

Scholar ----- From Page 1 • Previous MCLC scholarship Applicants must have demonstrated scholarship, leadership, community service and/or work experience.

Previous MCLC OSC scholar-

bility requirements are:
• Non-traditional applicants who

graduated from high school prior to graduated from high school prior to the current school year must have been accepted by or be currently enrolled full-time in a college, uni-versity, or accredited vocational/ technical school and must have at least one year or a minimum of 30 credit hours remaining till gradua-

• This will include non-traditional applicants such as family members or military and/or civilian Marine Corps Logistics Command employees who are currently not in an academic environment or family members of military and/or civilian MCLC employees who are currently enrolled in a college, university, or vocational/technical school.

· Applicants must have demonstrated scholarship, leadership, community service and/or work recipients are not eligible to apply Applications must be post-marked no later than April 1, 2004. Last year \$7,125 was raised and spread to various charities and

Previous MCLC OXC scholar-ship recipients are not eligible to apply.

Non-traditional students eligi-bility requirements are:

Standardips.

This year OSC will have their annual fundraiser in March. Other small fund raising events will be lad out only to raise money for held not only to raise money for scholarships but also charities in

For more information, call Aida Cerney, Scholarship and Charitable donations chairperson at 878-1514.

SNCO controls second half, takes the 47-35 victory



SNCO's center, Darryl Reynolds, jumps for the ball over HQBN's Steven Olinger as Darrell Stewart stands nearby waiting for a tip ball to come his way.

Story and photos by

LANCE CPL. KEVIN J RIDLON

EMBLEM STAFF

The Headquarters Battalion team started off the Feb. 19 afternoon game with a strong lead against the Staff Noncommissioned Officer team. but made some crucial mis-takes that allowed the SNCO's to come out with the 47-35 victory.

The first couple of minutes were going good for HQBN as their offense moved quickly to sink some stylish baskets

The lead came to an end eight minutes into the game as the SNCO's came together as the SNCO's came together defensively to get some steals and driving the ball to the basket to tie the game 9-9, causing HQBN to use their first time out of the game.

was able to score a quick bas-ket before the SNCO's jumped ahead again when Darryll Reynolds made four back-to-back free throw bas-

kets.

After taking the lead, the SNCO's kept up their offense SNCO's kept up their offense going on a scoring drive as they capitalized on HQBN's miscommunication and bad passes, only allowing HQBN to make 2 free-throw shots.

The score at half time was 24-13.

"I feel it was a good game in the first half," said

in the first half," said Jamarcus Robinson, HQBN's center. "Both teams were playing smart and making good baskets. The SNCO's played great fundamental basketball, and we couldn't stop them."

In the second half, the

irst time out of the game. SNCO's came out tough and Sher the timeout, HQBN smart. They slowed down

their offense and waited for plays to develop, and stiff-ened their defense.

ened their defense. came out on top wan me sylvation. In the middle of the second half HQBN seemed to become frustrated and started to make bad passes and defensive mistakes allowing SNCO is Lawrence Floyd.

to reach a 18-point lead.
With three minutes remaining, HQBN started a rally but could not get enough opportunities to score.

SNCO was up by 10 points or more for the whole game.

Despite the high paced efforts of HQBN, SNCO came out on top with the 47-

"We try for match-ups and taking advantage of a team's weakness, which we did early in the game. At times the game seemed a little nasty, however the end result was winning," he pointed out..



HQBN's Daryl Walker puts a move on the SNCO's Luis Torresin in an attempt to get by him.



MCCS Basketball 2004

Adult League 2004 Current Standings

1 — SNCO	(5-0-0)	5 — C-4	(2-4-0)
2 — GME	(6-1-0)	6 — Enforcers	(1-4-0)
3 — STAP	(5-1-0)	7 — HQBN	(1-5-0)
4 (2) (2)	(2.2.0)	0 10	(O F O)

MCLB YMCA Youth Basketball 10 & Under Girls Feb. 21 End of seas 10 & Under Boys Feb. 21 End of seas

<u>5 & Under</u> 7 & Under Feb. 21 MCLB 1 vs. Tarheels Feb. 21 MCLB 2 vs. Vols Feb. 21 MCLB 1 vs. Sonics Feb. 21 MCLB 2 vs. Knicks

Sports Notes

Varsity Men's Softball Tryouts — Couch Field, Feb. 23, 24 and 26. Tryouts begin at 5 p.m. Open to all active duty military assigned to MCLB Albany.

2 at Thomson Gym for Boys & Girls Team Under 5 through Under 14. Practice will be be at MCLB Albany. The fee is \$30. For more information, call Paul Nixon at 639-5246 or Jay Corboba at 639-8268.